

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-28 presently are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2004, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that the Examiner checked box (12c) on the Office Action Summary indicating that none of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. However, the certified copy of the priority document was filed concurrently with the application on March 12, 2001 and receipt was acknowledged in the July 16, 2003 Office Action and the February 5, 2004 Office Action. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to again acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the next action.

Claims 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilska et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,427,078) in view of Cariffe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,201,548). By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 23 to be dependent on allowed claim 1 in order to place claims 23-28 in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/803,657

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher R. Lipp
Registration No. 41,157

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 2, 2005

Attorney Docket No.: Q63461